Message Text

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13

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 AID-20

CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04

INR-09 IO-13 NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-09 RSC-01 SS-14

OST-04 RSR-01 /155 W

----- 019645

R 100945 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY OSLO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6396 INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, XQ, NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN CONFERENCE ON ARCTIC CONSERVATION

REF: STATE 29069

BEGIN SUMMARY. MOSCOW WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED OSLO MEETING OF ARCTIC EXPERTS, AND THE NORWEGIANS ARE NOW CONSIDERING A NEW APPROACH TO STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOVIET UNION HAS TURNED DOWN THE NORWEGIAN INVITATION TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO A MEETING OF EXPERTS INOSLO TO DISCUSS ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. AMBASSADOR VENNEMOE, ARCTIC AFFAIRS EXPERT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOW CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED AND WILL BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS (WASHINGTON, COPENHAGEN, OTTAWA) SHORTLY.

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- 2. VENNEMOE SAID THE NORWEGIANS WISH TO AVOID POINTING AN ACCUSING FINGER AT THE SOVIETS FOR BLOCKING THE PROPOSED MEETING. IN HIS PRIVATE VIEW, THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT MANAGED THE INVITATIONS POORLY BY ANNOUNCING ITS PLANS AT THE 1972 STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT. IN VIEW OF THE KNOWN SOVIET WARINESS OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS IN ARCTIC REGIONS, PLUS THEIR ABSENCE FROM THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, VENNEMOE THINKS HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE APPROACHED THE SOVIETS QUIETLY TO SOLICIT THEIR PARTICIPATION.
- 3. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF STRONG INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC COOPERATION ON THE PART OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS, VENNEMOE SAID. NORWAY REMAINS INTERESTED IN BRINGING ABOUT A PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD. HE HOPES A NEW -- BUT AS YET UNDETERMINED -- APPROACH WILL BE MADE, ONE WHICH WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF SOVIET SENSITIVITIES AND MAY THEREFORE HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED. DECON 12/31/77 CROWE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOSCOW **OTTAWA** SCI

SECSTATE WASHDC

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